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Malibu—Malibu’s first new public beach in 18 years will officially be opened on June 17 in a celebration that will bring together state and local officials and private citizens who worked long and hard for its purchase.

Attendees: Joe Edmiston, Exec. Dir., Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Sam Schuchat, Exec. Officer, State Coastal Conservancy
Sara Wan, Chair, California Coastal Commission
Jeff Jennings, Mayor, City of Malibu [?]
Norm Haynie, Lechuza Villas West
Others?

“The growing population of Southern California needs more recreational areas and retreats from the stresses of urban life,” said Joe Edmiston. “Lechuza Beach adds to a growing

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list of parklands that will improve the quality of life for local residents and increase the area's attractiveness to visitors." **[Verify quote.]**

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) purchased the beach in May from Lechuza Villas West for \$9.4 million, using funds from the Coastal Conservancy. The MRCA and the Coastal Conservancy will work with local partners and the Malibu-Encinal HomeOwners Association, which represents most property owners along the beach, to develop a management plan for the beach.

Lechuza Villas West worked closely with the Coastal Conservancy to enable the beach's purchase for public use. The company had earlier attempted to build about 20 private residences on the beach, but the Coastal Commission had denied permits for the development.

Lechuza Villas West and the local homeowners association had allowed the public onto the beach since 1991, but could have rescinded that permission at any time. Before 1991 beach access was allowed only for local residents and their guests.

Public parking is available along Broad Beach road near three beach access points.

At the June 17 event, the two conservancies and the MRCA will also formally announce last fall's opening, after a 10-year effort, of a public stairway to Escondido Beach at xxxx Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. The stairway was built by the local homeowners association and is managed by the MRCA.

Supporters of the Lechuza Beach acquisition include Assemblymember Fran Pavley, the city of Malibu, Heal the Bay, the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Malibu Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, and Access for All. **[Anybody else?]**

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and its sister agency, the MRCA, are dedicated to the preservation and acquisition of open space and parkland throughout Southern California. MRCA is a joint powers authority composed of the mountains conservancy and the Conejo and Rancho Simi recreation and park districts.

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The Coastal Conservancy is a state agency that works with the people of California to protect and improve the coast and San Francisco Bay. The conservancy has helped open over 80 miles of coast and bay shores to the public and preserve over 90,000 acres of wetlands, wildlife habitat, parks, and farmland.

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